

REMARKS

In response to the above-noted Office Action Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 responsive to informalities as noted by the Examiner and for compliance under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant further amended Claim 1 responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Additionally, Applicant has amended the abstract of the disclosure in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b).


Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hee et al. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hee et al. in view of White et al. In response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include limitations from Claim 6 which has been allowed. Although there are differences between Claims 1 and 6 since Claim 1 is an apparatus claim, and Claim 6 is a method claim, it is submitted that the patentably distinct limitations contained in Claim 6 have been incorporated into Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims which depend from Claim 1 are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all outstanding requirements have been complied with and the claims pending for examination, namely claims 1 – 8 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 4/20/04

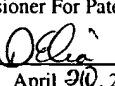

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Linda Marie D'Elia


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